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REVIEWERS GUIDE

PART A: ***Editorial Office Only***

MANUSCRIPT REVIEW

IMPACT OF LANDLORDS ASSOCIATIONS ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN IBADAN METROPOLIS

Reviewer's Assessment

GENERAL COMMENTS

This manuscript addresses a highly relevant and understudied topic—the role of grassroots landlords' associations in community peace and security within the Nigerian context. The research is timely, given the persistent security challenges in urban Nigeria and the increasing reliance on community-based initiatives to complement formal security structures. The authors demonstrate a clear understanding of the subject matter and present their findings in a logical, well-organized manner.

The study's strength lies in its practical focus on a real-world issue that affects millions of urban residents. The combination of quantitative data from 200 respondents and the grounding in established theoretical frameworks (Social Capital Theory and Collective Action Theory) provides a solid foundation for the research. The findings offer actionable insights that could inform policy decisions and enhance community security practices.

However, the manuscript would benefit from refinement in several areas, including deeper engagement with the theoretical framework, more rigorous methodological detail, and stronger integration of the findings with existing literature. With these improvements, this work has the potential to make a meaningful contribution to the fields of community development, urban security studies, and peace research.

ABSTRACT

Strengths: The abstract provides a comprehensive overview of the study, covering the research objectives, theoretical anchors, methodology, key findings, and conclusions. It successfully conveys the essence of the research in a structured manner, making it accessible to readers from diverse backgrounds.

Areas for Improvement:

1. **Brevity and Focus:** The abstract is somewhat lengthy. Consider condensing it to approximately 250-300 words while retaining all essential information. For instance, the detailed description of ethical approval could be shortened to a single sentence such as: "Ethical protocols were strictly observed throughout the study."
2. **Quantitative Precision:** While you mention that "over 80% compliance with agreements" was achieved in conflict resolution, this specific figure appears in the introduction rather than being derived from your own data. Ensure that statistics cited in the abstract directly reflect your study's findings. If this is from your results, clarify this connection.
3. **Theoretical Integration:** The abstract mentions the theoretical frameworks but does not explain how they specifically informed your analysis or findings. A brief statement such as "The findings validate Social Capital Theory by demonstrating how trust and networks enhance association effectiveness" would strengthen the abstract's scholarly depth.
4. **Implications:** Consider adding one sentence highlighting the broader implications of your findings beyond Ibadan, such as their potential applicability to other urban centers in Nigeria or sub-Saharan Africa.

Suggested Revision Example: *"...Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics, with all ethical protocols observed. Findings revealed..."*

INTRODUCTION

Strengths: The introduction effectively establishes the context by discussing the broader concepts of peace and security, the limitations of formal security systems in Nigeria, and the emergence of landlords' associations as grassroots actors. The global and comparative perspectives (referencing the U.S., U.K., Uganda) add depth and demonstrate the authors' awareness of international scholarship.

The literature review embedded within the introduction is thorough and well-cited, drawing on relevant studies from Nigeria and abroad. The progression from general concepts (peace, conflict resolution, security measures) to the specific role of landlords' associations is logical and engaging.

Areas for Improvement:

1. **Statement of Originality:** While you discuss existing studies, you should more explicitly articulate what gap your research fills. For example, you could add: "Unlike previous studies that focused on administrative functions, this research specifically examines how landlords' associations' activities translate into measurable peace and security outcomes from the perspectives of both residents and security personnel."
2. **Contextual Background:** Provide more specific information about Ibadan Metropolis—its population, demographic characteristics, recent security trends, and the historical development of landlords' associations in the area. This context will help readers unfamiliar with the setting understand why Ibadan is an appropriate case study.
3. **Theoretical Positioning:** The introduction mentions Social Capital Theory and Collective Action Theory but does not explain how these theories will guide the research design, data collection, or analysis. Consider adding a

brief paragraph that explicitly connects these theories to your research questions. For example: "Drawing on Social Capital Theory, this study investigates how trust and networks within landlords' associations influence their conflict resolution effectiveness."

4. **Research Gap Clarity:** The transition to the statement of the problem could be smoother. Consider a transitional sentence such as: "Despite these promising developments, significant questions remain about the actual impact and sustainability of these associations' efforts in Ibadan Metropolis."

Minor Grammar Corrections:

- "Around the world, organised housing and landlord groups..." → "Around the world, organized housing and landlord groups..." (Consistent spelling: use either British or American English throughout; I recommend American English for wider accessibility)
- "...achieving over 80% compliance with agreements (Adams, 2021)" → Ensure this citation is accurate; verify if this percentage comes from Adams or your own study

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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Strengths: This section clearly articulates the research problem and justifies the need for the study. You effectively highlight the gap between the potential and actual performance of landlords' associations, noting the variability in their effectiveness across communities.

Areas for Improvement:

1. **Problem Specificity:** While you mention "mixed outcomes," provide specific examples or statistics from Ibadan that illustrate these variations. For instance: "In Area X, crime rates decreased by Y% following association interventions, while Area Z experienced no significant change despite similar efforts."
2. **Theoretical Connection:** Explicitly state how the identified problem relates to gaps in theoretical understanding. For example: "While Social Capital Theory predicts that high-trust communities will have more effective associations, little empirical evidence exists to test this relationship in the Ibadan context."
3. **Stakeholder Perspectives:** You mention exploring perceptions of residents and security agencies, but you could strengthen this by explaining why these perspectives matter. Add something like: "Understanding these perceptions is crucial because the legitimacy and sustainability of landlords' associations depend on stakeholder confidence and cooperation."
4. **Research Justification:** The final paragraph could be strengthened by explicitly stating the practical implications. For example: "Insights from this study will inform policy recommendations that could be adopted by local government authorities, security agencies, and community leaders across Nigeria."

OBJECTIVES AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Strengths: The objectives and research questions are clearly stated, specific, and directly aligned with one another. They comprehensively cover the key aspects of the research problem.

Areas for Improvement:

1. **Theoretical Alignment:** Consider adding an objective that explicitly addresses the theoretical dimensions. For example: "To examine how social capital (trust, networks, norms) influences the effectiveness of landlords' associations in promoting peace and security."
2. **Measurability:** While the objectives are clear, ensure that each one has corresponding measurable indicators in your instrument. For instance, "effectiveness" in Objective 2 should be operationalized with specific indicators (crime reduction, dispute resolution rates, etc.).

METHODOLOGY

Strengths: The methodology section demonstrates rigor through the use of stratified random sampling, validated instruments, and attention to ethical considerations. The reliability coefficient (Cronbach's alpha = 0.82) indicates good internal consistency.

Areas for Improvement:

1. **Research Design Justification:** Explain why a descriptive survey design is the most appropriate for this study. What advantages does it offer over other designs (e.g., case studies, mixed methods)?
2. **Sampling Detail:**
    - Provide the total population of landlords' associations in Ibadan Metropolis and how you determined that 200 respondents would be adequate. Include a power analysis or reference to sample size determination formulas.
    - Clarify the selection criteria: What made a landlords' association "active"? Were there minimum membership or operational criteria?
    - Explain the 130:70 ratio of landlords to tenants. Was this proportional to actual membership ratios, or was it a deliberate choice? Justify this decision.
3. **Instrument Development:**
    - Describe the structure of the LAPSQ in more detail: How many sections? How many items per section? What response scale was used (e.g., 5-point Likert scale)?
    - Include a table showing the distribution of items across the research questions or include the actual questionnaire as an appendix.
    - Explain how open-ended questions were analyzed. Did you use thematic analysis? Content analysis?
4. **Data Collection Procedure:**
    - Specify the timeline: How long did data collection take?
    - Describe the training provided to field workers: What specific instructions did they receive?

    - Report the response rate: Out of how many distributed questionnaires did you receive 200 completed ones?
5. **Data Analysis:**
    - Specify which inferential statistics were used. You mention "inferential statistics" but don't identify the specific tests (e.g., chi-square, correlation, regression, ANOVA).
    - Explain the decision rule for the mean scores. What cutoff determined "Agree" vs. other categories?
    - For open-ended responses, describe the coding and analysis process.
6. **Ethical Considerations:**
    - While you mention ethical approval, provide the approval reference number and date for verification purposes.
    - Clarify how informed consent was obtained: Was it written or verbal? What information was provided to participants?
7. **Limitations:** Add a subsection acknowledging methodological limitations, such as potential response bias, self-reporting issues, or the cross-sectional nature of the study limiting causal inferences.

Grammar Corrections:

- "...titled *Landlords' Associations, Peace and Security Questionnaire (LAPSQ),*" → Remove italics from the abbreviation: "titled *Landlords' Associations, Peace and Security Questionnaire* (LAPSQ),"

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Strengths: The results are presented in a clear, organized manner with well-formatted tables. The use of mean scores and standard deviations provides useful descriptive information. Each table is accompanied by an interpretation that connects the findings to the research context.

Areas for Improvement:

1. **Table Formatting:**
    - Tables are well-structured, but ensure consistency in decimal places (use two decimal places throughout).
    - Consider adding a column showing the percentage of respondents in each agreement category (Strongly Agree, Agree, etc.) for richer detail.
2. **Statistical Depth:**
    - The tables show only descriptive statistics. Include inferential analyses to test for significant differences or relationships. For example:
        - Compare responses between landlords and tenants using independent t-tests.
        - Test correlations between challenges faced and perceived effectiveness.
        - Use regression analysis to identify which activities most strongly predict effectiveness.
    - Report effect sizes alongside p-values to indicate practical significance.
3. **Response Distribution:**

    - With a 5-point scale, showing only the mean can obscure important patterns. Present frequency distributions or percentages for key items to reveal consensus or divergence among respondents.
4. **Open-Ended Responses:**
    - You mention that the questionnaire included open-ended questions, but no qualitative data are presented. Include representative quotes or themes that emerged to enrich the quantitative findings.
5. **Grand Mean Interpretation:**
    - While you report grand means, explain what they represent practically. For instance, a grand mean of 4.00 suggests general agreement, but what does this mean for policy or practice?
6. **Visual Representation:**
    - Consider adding charts or graphs (bar charts, radar charts) to visualize key findings, especially for comparative analysis between different respondent groups or across local government areas.
7. **Cross-Tabulation:**
    - Conduct and present cross-tabulations showing how responses vary by respondent type (landlord vs. tenant), location (different LGAs), or association characteristics.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Strengths: The discussion systematically addresses each research question and connects findings to existing literature. You demonstrate good knowledge of relevant studies and provide reasonable interpretations of your results.

Areas for Improvement:

1. **Theoretical Integration:**
    - The discussion does not explicitly revisit the theoretical frameworks mentioned in the introduction. Explain how your findings support, challenge, or extend Social Capital Theory and Collective Action Theory.
    - For example: "The finding that associations with better internal communication and trust (high social capital) are more effective in conflict resolution validates Putnam's (1995) proposition that social capital enhances collective action outcomes."
2. **Critical Analysis:**
    - The discussion is largely confirmatory. Engage more critically with unexpected or contradictory findings. Were there any surprises? Did any results contradict previous studies? Why might this be?
    - Address alternative explanations for your findings.
3. **Comparative Analysis:**
    - You reference international examples in the introduction but don't return to them in the discussion. What can Ibadan learn from landlords' associations in the U.S., U.K., or Uganda? What is unique about the Ibadan context?
4. **Practical Implications:**
    - Expand on the practical implications of each finding. How should landlords' associations, security agencies, or policymakers respond based on your results?

5. **Depth of Analysis:**
    - Some sections are quite brief. For instance, the discussion of perception (Finding 4) could explore why transparency concerns exist despite generally positive views. Are there specific practices that erode trust?
6. **Conflicting Evidence:**
    - Acknowledge where your findings might differ from previous studies and explore possible reasons (contextual differences, methodological variations, temporal changes).

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Strengths: The conclusion effectively synthesizes the main findings and reiterates the importance of landlords' associations in community security. The recommendations are practical, specific, and directly derived from the findings.

Areas for Improvement:

1. **Theoretical Contribution:**
    - The conclusion focuses heavily on practical contributions but should also articulate the theoretical contribution. How do your findings advance scholarly understanding? Do they suggest refinements to Social Capital or Collective Action Theory?
2. **Recommendations Specificity:**
    - Some recommendations are quite general. Strengthen them with specific, actionable details:
        - Instead of "strengthen collaboration," specify: "Establish quarterly joint planning meetings between landlords' associations and local police divisions, with documented action plans and follow-up mechanisms."
        - Instead of "improve internal governance," suggest: "Adopt standardized financial reporting templates and conduct annual audits with results shared publicly to association members."
3. **Future Research:**
    - Expand the future research recommendation beyond comparative studies. Suggest specific research questions such as:
        - Longitudinal studies examining how association effectiveness changes over time
        - Experimental or quasi-experimental designs testing specific interventions
        - Qualitative studies exploring the lived experiences of association leaders and members
        - Research examining the cost-effectiveness of community-based security versus formal policing

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REFERENCES

Strengths: The reference list is diverse, including both Nigerian and international sources, peer-reviewed journals, institutional reports, and recent publications. The in-text citations appear accurate.

- This finding supports Adebayo (2022)" → Verify this reference exists in the reference list (currently missing)
- **Michener, J., & SoRelle, M.** (2022). Tenant organizing and resilience in race–class subjugated communities. *Public Management Review*, *24*(5), 689–707. Retrieved from https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc(not cited in your work)

DECISION AND RATINGS

Rating Scale:

1 = Excellent | 2 = Good | 3 = Fair | 4 = Poor

Originality: 2 (Good)

Justification: The study addresses an important and relatively understudied phenomenon—landlords' associations' role in community security—in a specific context (Ibadan). While the general topic of community-based security has been explored, this specific focus on landlords' associations using mixed perspectives (residents and security agencies) adds originality. However, the study largely confirms existing knowledge rather than challenging or substantially extending it. Greater theoretical innovation or methodological novelty would elevate the originality rating.

Contribution to the Field: 2 (Good)

Justification: The manuscript makes a valuable practical contribution by documenting how landlords' associations function in Ibadan and identifying actionable strategies for improvement. It fills an empirical gap in the Nigerian urban security literature. However, the theoretical contribution is limited—the study applies existing theories but doesn't refine or extend them based on the findings. The contribution would be strengthened by deeper theoretical engagement and more sophisticated analysis demonstrating how Ibadan's case challenges or advances scholarly understanding.

Technical Quality: 3 (Fair)

Justification: The study demonstrates adequate research design with appropriate sampling, validated instruments, and ethical procedures. However, several technical limitations affect the rating:

- The analysis relies solely on descriptive statistics; more sophisticated inferential analyses are needed
- Methodological details are insufficient (no sample size justification, limited instrument detail, no discussion of limitations)
- The discussion lacks critical depth and theoretical integration

- Some cited sources in the discussion don't appear in the reference list, suggesting citation management issues

With revisions addressing these concerns—particularly strengthening the analytical approach and providing fuller methodological detail—the technical quality could reach "Good."

Clarity of Presentation: 2 (Good)

Justification: The manuscript is generally well-organized and clearly written, with logical flow from introduction through conclusion. Tables are well-formatted and findings are presented coherently. The language is accessible while maintaining scholarly tone. However, some sections (particularly methodology and theoretical framework) need better explanation and organization. Minor grammatical errors and repetitive phrasing (e.g., overuse of "This implies that...") slightly detract from clarity. With copyediting and structural refinements, this could reach "Excellent."

Depth of Research: 3 (Fair)

Justification: The study demonstrates reasonable breadth through its literature review and collection of data from 200 respondents across five local government areas. However, depth is limited in several ways:

- Analysis remains at a descriptive level without exploring relationships or testing hypotheses
- Theoretical engagement is superficial—theories are mentioned but not deeply integrated
- No qualitative depth despite mentioning open-ended questions
- Limited comparative analysis (no disaggregation by respondent type, location, or association characteristics)
- Insufficient engagement with why certain patterns emerge

Deepening the analysis, adding qualitative richness, and providing more nuanced interpretation would significantly enhance the research depth.

GRAMMATICAL ERRORS AND CORRECTIONS

Below are specific grammatical and stylistic corrections marked with arrows (→):

Abstract:

- "Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Ethical approval was obtained" → "Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics, with ethical approval obtained" (combine for smoother flow)

Introduction:

- "Around the world, organised housing and landlord groups also contribute" → "Around the world, organized housing and landlord groups contribute" (remove "also" for conciseness)

- "Ido Local Government Area of Ibadan, landlords' associations use" → "Ido Local Government Area of Ibadan, landlords' associations have used" (tense consistency if referring to past study)

Statement of the Problem:

- "In response, landlords' associations have stepped in" → "In response, landlords' associations step in" (present tense for ongoing action)

Methodology:

- "The study used a descriptive survey" → "This study employed a descriptive survey" (varied verb choice)
- "titled *Landlords' Associations, Peace and Security Questionnaire (LAPSQ),*" → "titled *Landlords' Associations, Peace and Security Questionnaire* (LAPSQ)," (remove italics from abbreviation)

Results:

- Multiple instances of "This implies that in Ibadan Metropolis where" → "This implies that in Ibadan Metropolis, where" (add comma)
- "This implies that in the current Ibadan context, where security" → Vary sentence starters: "These findings suggest..." or "This indicates..."

Discussion:

- "This finding supports Adebayo (2022)" → Verify this reference exists in the reference list (currently missing)

Conclusion:

- "landlords' association executives in areas such as" → "landlords' association executives on topics such as" (preposition choice)

OVERALL DECISION: MINOR REVISIONS REQUIRED

Summary:

This manuscript addresses an important and timely topic with practical relevance for urban security in Nigeria. The research is generally well-conceived, with clear objectives, appropriate methodology, and useful findings. However, it requires revisions to meet publication standards fully.

Priority Areas for Revision:

CRITICAL (Must be addressed):

1. Strengthen the data analysis by adding inferential statistics, comparing respondent groups, and testing relationships between variables

2. Provide complete methodological details (sampling justification, instrument structure, analytical procedures)
3. Integrate theoretical frameworks throughout, especially in the discussion and conclusion
4. Correct reference list inconsistencies and add missing citations

IMPORTANT (Should be addressed): 6. Expand the discussion with critical analysis and alternative explanations 7. Include qualitative data from open-ended responses 8. Provide more contextual background on Ibadan Metropolis 9. Make recommendations more specific and actionable 10. Improve clarity by varying sentence structures and reducing repetition

MINOR (Nice to have): 11. Add visual representations of key findings 12. Expand future research recommendations 13. Include a dedicated policy implications section

Encouragement:

Your work tackles a crucial issue that deserves scholarly attention and has clear practical applications. The foundation is solid—you've conducted primary research with a reasonable sample size, validated your instrument, and maintained ethical standards. Your findings align with and extend existing literature in meaningful ways. With the revisions suggested above, particularly strengthening the analytical approach and deepening theoretical engagement, this manuscript has strong potential to make a valuable contribution to the field. I encourage you to view this review as a roadmap for enhancing an already promising piece of scholarship. Best wishes with your revisions!

Reviewer's Overall Assessment:
The manuscript demonstrates commendable effort in addressing a significant gap in community security research. With thoughtful revisions, particularly in analysis and theoretical integration, it will constitute a valuable addition to the literature on grassroots peace and security initiatives in urban Nigeria.